

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 1986, 7:30 P.M.
IN THE BUNKER CONFERENCE ROOM, CENTENNIAL BUILDING, LOYOLA CAMPUS

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING:

BD-39-D1: Motions from the Emergency Board Meeting
BD-43-D1: Student Services Vice-President Report
BD-43-D2: Newspaper Autonomy Proposal
BD-43-D3: 1985-86 Board of Directors Summary of Activities

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairperson Georges Berberi called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

PRESENT:

Co-Presidents:

Ron Hiscox
Michael Judson

Commerce:

Elizabeth Laett (8:30)
Tony Ghannamy

Fine Arts:

Ian Fleet

Arts and Science:

Milva D'Aronco
Lorne Lecker
Chris Mostovac
Mark Pink
Heather Rerrie
Karen Takacs

Engineering:

Andrew Haberl
Jonathan Jolivet
Martin Pereira

ABSENT:

Arts and Science: Maria Calderone, Adrian Chomenko, Andy King (W/R), Maki Kusano (W/R), Jim Schneider (W/R), Jennifer Stark
Commerce: Jenny Rice (W/R), Shirleen Weekes
Engineering: Dan Artola
Fine Arts: David Etherington, Ian Chuprun, Page Lopez

Advisors to the Board Present: Francois Desrosiers, External V.P.; Glen Cheverie, Liaison Committee; Peter Wheeland, Communications V.P.; Brian Weihs, Finance V.P.; Scott White, Student Services V.P.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The following items on the Agenda were changed. The Co-Presidents' Report will be given as Item 6(a). All other reports will be moved up a letter. Question Period will be held at the end of the meeting.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the 39th Meeting were approved as written.

The Minutes of the 41st Meeting were approved as written.

The Minutes of the 42nd Meeting were approved as written.

4. Chairperson's Remarks:

Chairperson Georges Berberi reported that Janice Domaratzki had graduated in December and was, therefore, no longer a member of the Board of Directors.

Chairperson Georges Berberi raised the issue of Page Lopez's non-attendance. Karen Takacs asked if he had been made aware of the threat of impeachment and Georges Berberi responded that he had tried but had been unable to contact him. Ian Fleet questioned if the vacant seat would be filled and Georges Berberi stated that there would not be enough time to replace him because the elections were coming up in two months' time.

MOTION 258:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CUSA Board of Directors moves to
impeach Page Lopez for his non-attendance at Board
Meetings.

Moved by: Mark Pink
Seconded by: Heather Rerrie

Discussion:

Scott White advised the Board that if this motion is passed, the next step would be for the Chairperson to write to Page Lopez regarding his impeachment and then the issue would go before the Judicial Board. Lorne Lecker stated his objection to the motion and suggested that Page Lopez be given a chance to resign before he is impeached. Jonathan Jolivet suggested that Page Lopez be given notice in writing and failing his resigning by the date of the next Board meeting, he be brought before the Judicial Board for impeachment. Both Karen Takacs and Chris Mostovac felt that this would be a waste of time and recommended that the Board go ahead with the move to impeach Page Lopez. Mark Pink reported that he had spoken with Page Lopez in November, and Page Lopez had told him at that point in time that he was no longer interested in serving on the Board. Again Lorne Lecker questioned why the Board should impeach him when they can save face by asking him to resign, and Karen Takacs responded that impeachment will serve to let people know that it is a responsibility to be on the Board of Directors.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Milva D'Aronco
Seconded by: Mark Pink

VOTE TO END DEBATE: 10/2/1 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 258: 12/0/2 Carried

(8:30)

Chairperson Georges Berberi continued his remarks by stating that he wished to show the Board what had been accomplished to date in 1985-86. He distributed a summary of the Board's activities (BD-43-D3) which showed Motions Passed, Tabled, and Postponed. Michael Judson interjected that the original intention of this exercise was to present a summary of the year's activities much the same way as is done in corporate boardrooms.

5. New Business:

a) Capital Campaign Refund Deadline:

Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Michael Judson to present a motion concerning the deadline for refunds.

MOTION 259:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the deadline for Capital Campaign refunds be brought forward to May 1, 1986 from August 31, 1986 for accounting purposes to bring the deadline in line with the fiscal year end of the University.

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

Discussion:

Mark Pink questioned whether moving the date would or would not be an inconvenience and was assured that it would not be. He asked as well if the number of requests for refunds was down. Andrew Haberl asked how many refunds were requested each day. Ron Hiscox responded that since the beginning 5,400 requests for refunds had been made but he was unable to give a daily figure. Chris Mostovac questioned whether the change of date was suggested by the University Administration or by CUSA, and Ron Hiscox responded that the date of May 1st was a compromise between the two (CUSA would have liked August 31st and the Administration December 31st). Michael Judson added that Administration asked for a date change for simple bookkeeping purposes and that the date had been chosen in conjunction with them. Michael Judson reported that the refund process was temporarily frozen and Jonathan Jolivet explained that the University was in the process of issuing receipt slips for donations made in the 1985 tax year--these receipts are used for tax exemptions. Michael Judson added that those students who have paid their accounts in full by December 31, 1985 and have not requested a refund yet will have to bring their tax receipt slip in order to obtain a refund. He added that the refund process will most likely start up again in February.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Lorne Lecker
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE TO END DEBATE:

UNANIMOUS

VOTE ON MOTION 259:

13/0/1 Carried

b) Referendums:

Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Ron Hiscox to present a proposal for newspaper autonomy.

MOTION 260:

WHEREAS CUSA endorses the principle of a free and responsible student press, financially and editorially independent of student governments; and

WHEREAS the current relationship between CUSA and the official campus publications places CUSA in the conflicting role of being both publisher and a major object of news coverage;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors strike an autonomy negotiating committee which will have as its purpose the following:

1-To negotiate with The Concordian and The Link, the terms of autonomy including fee levels, a service contract and minimal constitutional guarantees of student input;

2-To recommend to the Board an autonomy referendum proposal by no later than February 21, 1986.

Moved by: Ron Hiscox
Seconded by: Michael Judson

Discussion:

Ron Hiscox stated that at present CUSA is responsible for the newspapers and for what is published in them, and that the newspapers have to come to CUSA for their budgets. If they were given autonomy, they would not have to go through CUSA's machinery anymore--there would be, in theory, three companies: CUSA, The Concordian and The Link. He further stated that in order for the papers to obtain autonomy, referendum questions would have to be posed on which the student body could vote. Andrew Haberl commented on the need for a consolidated student body and suggested that a separation like this might lessen the students' bargaining power with the University. He asked what effect this would have on students' fees and wondered when other clubs might want to separate (e.g. CUTV, CRSG). Michael Judson responded that this was a distinctly separate and distinctly political issue and comparisons to other groups' situations could not be made given the special nature of the relationship between the student papers and student politics. Ron Hiscox responded to the question of increased fees and stated that the fee levels would come up in the referendum committees. In his personal view, he felt that the fees should be broken down and shown on the student contract (for example, if students are paying \$1.80 per credit for student fees, CUSA fee should be lowered to \$1.70 and \$.06 for The Link and \$.04 for The Concordian). Jonathan Jolivet commented that there are student papers that make money and asked what The Link's budget was. Ron Hiscox responded that the operating budget is \$128,000, most of

which comes from revenue and \$36,000 comes from CUSA. Jonathan Jolivet stated that he felt the papers should be responsible for what they print as well as should be able to make money.

Martin Pereira asked what prompted the issue. Ron Hiscox explained that often student governments are opposed to newspaper autonomy, however this year the Co-Presidents are not opposed and, therefore, thought it would be a good year to attempt obtaining autonomy for the papers. Martin Pereira questioned what would happen if the referendum did not pass and Ron Hiscox responded that the papers would have to approach CUSA for funding. Karen Takacs expressed her dislike for CUSA pushing the newspapers to obtain autonomy and felt that finances were the main reason--now the papers have guaranteed funding as CUSA groups but if they were autonomous funding would not be guaranteed. Ron Hiscox commented that the papers were not being forced and if an agreement could not be reached they would not have to pursue the issue, and went on to say that because there is such good co-operation this year between the papers and the government it would be an ideal time to set the referendum in motion. Karen Takacs expressed concern over the fact that if the papers lost in a referendum, next year's government could use it as an excuse to cut their funding. Ron Hiscox stated that there was no guarantee on funding in that another Board could undo everything that has been done, and that funding could only be guaranteed if it were entrenched in the constitution.

Milva D'Aronco stated that although autonomy will bring a sense of responsibility to the papers, she disliked the way in which it was brought up, (i.e. she read about it in "CUSA Today") and she suggested that Peter Wheeland makes sure that the Board is aware of items being published. She also suggested the Board discuss the idea of autonomy and know the ramifications (by-laws, charter, administration) before deciding on a committee. Lorne Lecker supported her view and asked when the referendums would take place, and Ron Hiscox replied that they would occur at the same time as the general elections.

Chris Mostovac asked if this issue has been dealt with at other universities and how it worked. Ron Hiscox explained that the newspapers usually try to go autonomous at the worst time (when they are trying to break away from the student government) and that they have problems from the start because they set their fees too low to ensure winning the referendum. However, he did report that it has been working successfully at the University of Toronto. Gordon Ritchie, editor of The Concordian, suggested that this was because there was a mitigating factor (legal costs) prompting its success.

Elizabeth Laett asked if students would be able to opt out of fees like with the Capital Campaign contributions, and Ron Hiscox responded that the fees would be mandatory.

Andrew Haberl agreed with Milva D'Aronco that the Board should be clear on the issues and asked whether this issue has been discussed with the editors of the papers. Gordon Ritchie of The Concordian stated that the policy of his paper is that they are in favour of establishing a structure that would ensure that the paper will be printed. Jennifer Feinberg of The Link stated that her paper firstly feels that autonomy is in its best interests, and secondly approves of the motion presented; however, the Directors should be aware of all that autonomy means.

Jonathan Jolivet reminded the Board that the committee would study the referendum and report to the Board and make recommendations. Chris Mostovac interjected that even at that point in time the Board does not have to agree with the committee's recommendations.

Tony Ghannamy asked who would comprise the committee, and Ron Hiscox responded that it would be made up of Directors and people from the papers. He further stated that the purpose of the committee would be to come up with a workable autonomy agreement and, if they were unable to come up with an agreement then things would stay the same as they are now.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Mark Pink
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE TO END DEBATE: 10/4/0 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 260: 12/1/1 Carried

The discussion resumed on the composition of the committee.

MOTION 261:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the newspaper autonomy negotiating committee will be comprised of a minimum of eight persons including four from the Executives and Board of CUSA, two from The Link and two from The Concordian.

Moved by: Andrew Haberl
Seconded by: Heather Rerrie

Discussion:

Karen Takacs felt that this was not a CUSA issue and that the two papers could form committees on their own. Peter Wheeland responded that a negotiating committee was necessary because of the fee level and the service contract that would have to be worked out.

Gordon Ritchie of The Concordian suggested that this motion be rescinded at the next meeting because the Board had not advised The Concordian that they are not satisfied with the current system of publishing, and there are ways other than autonomy if the Board is not satisfied.

Peter Wheeland addressed the motion stating that the negotiating committee will sit down separately with The Link and The Concordian to reach a consensus on terms. Brian Weihs was in agreement with having at least four CUSA members on the committee because there would be a lot of information to deal with in terms of finances, physical resources, canvassing the feelings of the Board, etc.

VOTE ON MOTION 261: 12/0/2 Carried

The newspaper autonomy negotiating committee will be comprised of:

Glen Cheverie
Milva D'Aronco
Tony Ghannamy
Ron Hiscox
Brian Weihs

c) Appointments to University Senate:

MOTION 262:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jonathan Jolivet be ratified to sit on
University Senate.

Moved by: Lorne Lecker
Seconded by: Andrew Haberl

Discussion:

Lorne Lecker recommended that for the sake of expediency the discussion be ended because Jonathan Jolivet is well known by all involved due to his being a Director of the Board.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Lorne Lecker
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE TO END DEBATE: 9/5/0 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 262: 12/1/1 Carried

d) Motions from the Emergency Board Meeting:

Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Karen Takacs to speak on the motions from the Emergency Board Meeting. Karen Takacs explained that the wording of the first motion had changed slightly to read:

MOTION 263:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a task force be established to review CUSA appointment and hiring policies, to report back to the Board of Directors with specific recommendations, keeping in mind CUSA's open-door policy and allegedly democratic spirit. This committee shall be composed of three directors and one member of the executive.

Moved by: Karen Takacs
Seconded by: Carla Grodis

Discussion:

Tony Ghannamy asked if this committee would be formed to work on a specific policy or would it be an on-going committee. Karen Takacs explained that the committee would work on a specific policy and make recommendations.

Chris Mostovac asked if this policy would be brought to the Board and Karen Takacs replied in the affirmative. Andrew Haberl asked how the composition of the committee was decided and Karen Takacs stated that it had been an arbitrary decision.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Milva D'Aronco
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE TO END DEBATE: 11/2/1 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 263: 12/1/1 Carried

Serving on this committee will be:

Ian Fleet
Karen Takacs
Peter Wheeland

MOTION 264:

WHEREAS it is impossible for any member of the executive to fulfill their duties without any assistance, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors cannot function as a well-informed, democratic and truly responsible body without actively participating in CUSA's internal workings,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT committees of each executive department will be set up. Each committee should consist of the vice-president of the specific department and number of directors, that number of directors to be determined by the vice-presidents in consultation with the Board.

Moved by: Karen Takacs
Seconded by: Carla Grodis

Discussion:

Jonathan Jolivet asked if the executives feel that they are receiving adequate assistance now, and directed his question to Scott White. Scott White responded that, no, the executives are not receiving enough assistance; but qualified his remark by saying that for his particular portfolio it would be valuable to have help, but in the day-to-day operations he would not want his decisions to be bound by a committee who perhaps would meet weekly. Karen Takacs stated that there would not be such a mandate for the committee, and the executives would not be bound. She further stated that the intention of this motion was to make the Board members more involved, and that the executives could call on the committees to perform specific tasks. Milva D'Aronco expressed her feeling that she does her share of work and would not sit on a committee, and continued to say that people cannot be forced to sit on the committees--people would do it out of interest, not because they had to do it, and the difference would be noted in the way in which they did their work. Ron Hiscox added that CUSA is a volunteer organization and people will do only what they want to do and cannot be forced. He stated that it was impossible to make a limit

of what is/is not acceptable. Martin Pereira agreed adding that people's willingness to help depends on factors such as their course loads, etc. Scott White supported the idea of increased involvement, but felt that Martin Periera's statement was close to the truth. Andrew Haberl agreed that in principle it was a very good idea but doubted that it would work in practice.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Andrew Haberl
Seconded by: Lorne Lecker

VOTE TO END DEBATE: 9/4/1 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 264: 3/9/2 Defeated

MOTION 265:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT each executive present a brief report
(written or verbal) to the Board of Directors at
least once every second meeting.

Moved by: Carla Grodis
Seconded by: Karen Takacs

Discussion:

Scott White stated that he was in favour of this motion because it would promote two-way communication between executives and the Board.

There were no objections to ending debate.

VOTE ON MOTION 265: UNANIMOUS

6. Reports:

c) Central America Committee Report:

Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Wayne Hiltz of the Central America Committee who explained that Nicaragua is an underdeveloped country that has shown the world an alternative model of economic development for third world countries. He stated that the government of Nicaragua has satisfied the needs of the majority by giving them a chance to participate, and that purchasing Nicaraguan coffee would help in the fight to achieve social justice and human dignity in that country.

MOTION 266:

WHEREAS Nicaragua has been suffering from a serious
economic situation in the last three years,
largely as a result of U.S.-sponsored aggression
and trade embargo,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Concordia University Students' Association express its solidarity with the people of Nicaragua by purchasing Nicaraguan coffee from a local distributor, Bridgehead Trading.

Moved by: Heather Rerrie
Seconded by: Mark Pink

Discussion:

Lorne Lecker expressed the opinion that this was a weird motion and that he could not take it seriously. He then left the meeting.

Milva D'Aronco stated that this issue should not have been brought before the Board, and left the meeting.

Quorum was lost.

(10:30)

Chairperson Georges Berberi assured the Central America Committee representatives that this item would be the first one on the next agenda. He commented on the insulting behaviour displayed by some of the Board members, and apologized on behalf of the Board and the CUSA executives.

e) Winter Carnival Update Report:

Alex Commodari, Carnival Chairperson, gave a brief report outlining the events that would take place during carnival week. He stated that he had been mainly worried about receiving the posters from the brewery, but they had come in (although they were late). He reported that the carnival committee was all set and that the schedules had been distributed. He pleaded with the Directors to offer some assistance with the various events.

a) Co-Presidents' Report:

Ron Hiscox reported that one of the receptionists at Loyola had been attacked during a morning shift. This matter is now in the hands of the police. No one knows for sure who the attacker was but the police have some leads--rumours have it that it may be connected to the Popular Sign Liberation Front, the group responsible for taking the CUSA sign from outside of the Centennial Building last autumn.

Ron Hiscox commented on the Girdwood-Robertson legal matter, and said that the preliminary legal steps were wrapped up and that the case should be in court by next year. The cost involved may be between \$5,400 and \$6,000 by the time everything is finished. The bottom line, he said, was that no one is entitled to exorbitant damages because of something written in a paper.

Regarding the library plans, he stated that he had no news to report but he is expecting rapid developments before the time of the next Board meeting. As far as the move to the Campus Centre is concerned, everything is on hold because of the library plans. He has been assured that it will happen this semester.

(11:00)

Martin Pereira asked about the status of Cusacorp. Mike Judson reported that from an operational standpoint everything was satisfactory. Ron Hiscox stated that the number of Board meetings had dropped and he had been trying to arrange a meeting. He stated that it was better than before but suggested that things might be slipping. As far as he was aware, it was financially alright but he had not seen the books.

Ian Fleet asked if anything could be done about rowdyism at beer bashes. He had seen washroom doors kicked in at the Guadagni Lounge during bashes, and wondered if CUSA could initiate checks to curb such rowdyism. Ron Hiscox explained that the University is responsible for security at Guadagni Lounge, but if it were a problem at the Campus Centre something could be done.

b) V.P. Services Report:

Scott White reported that the contract with TravelCUTS is almost signed. This contract is for \$62,000 per year for three years and will escalate by 5% per year. He also reported that he had ordered six new IBM electronic typewriters for the typing room at a cost of \$5,000 (total). The plans for offering a photocopying service are well under way. He is close to obtaining a machine which will be operated by the typing room monitors. An "introductory offer" of three cents per copy will be offered for a two-week period, and then it will cost five cents per copy. Scott White continued his report by stating that the Labour Pool had been closed on December 20th for regrouping. Interviews will be held to hire two co-ordinators. The deadline for applications was this evening, and between 50 and 60 had been received. The Labour Pool should be back in operation by the second week of February. It will be located on the second floor of the Centennial Building at Loyola, and it will operate on set hours (most likely 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., four days per week). Regarding the Concordia Council on Student Life, he reported that it seems to be functioning strangely this year in that there have only been three or four loose meetings held this year. The only active issue is the Athletics Implementation Committee, and it is behind where it should be at this time. Scott White further reported that the search is on for a new Vice-Rector, Service to replace Graham Martin, and he stated that this could have implications for students depending on who is chosen. Regarding physical resources, he expressed the feeling that furniture, etc. had not been allocated properly, and he would like to see each office equipped with the essentials: desk, chair, filing cabinet, bulletin board. He plans to spend about \$1,500 on second-hand equipment.

d) Alcohol Awareness Report:

Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Deborah Konig to present her report on alcohol awareness. She stated that "BACCHUS" (Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) was started up last year by the Dean of Students to look at education on alcohol, not to promote temperance or drive drinking off campus. She served on this committee and was asked by Dean Counihan to attend a two-day conference in New York held in conjunction with National Collegiate Alcohol Week. Because of organizational delays and time constraints, the trip was funded by CUSA instead of the Dean of Students. Topics of discussion at the

conference included the state of alcohol education and the question of raising the drinking age. At present, Concordia University has no policy regarding alcohol and the Dean of Students is in the process of setting up a task force to establish guidelines. The task force would be comprised of representatives from the Dean of Students office, Health Services, Academic Council, CUSA Board of Directors, Program Board and Liaison Committee. If any Directors require further information, they should feel free to contact her.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.



Georges Berberi, Chairperson



Jo Howard, Recording Secretary